

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape comprising a non-magnetic support, a primer layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on a surface of the non-magnetic support, a magnetic layer containing magnetic powder formed on the upper surface of the primer layer, and a backcoat layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on the other surface of the non-magnetic support, characterized in that

the magnetic powder comprises needle-like iron-based magnetic particles,

the thickness of the magnetic layer is 0.09 μm or less, and

the non-magnetic powder in the primer layer comprises plate-like non-magnetic oxide particles with an average particle size of 10 to 100 nm.

2. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 1, wherein the needle-like iron-based magnetic particles have an average major axis length of 20 to 60 nm.

3. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 2, wherein the needle-like iron-based magnetic particles comprise 20 to 40 wt.% of cobalt, 10 to 30 wt.% of at least one element selected from the group consisting of rare earth elements, and 3 to 10 wt.% of aluminum.

4. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 3, wherein the squareness ratio (B_r/B_s) of the magnetic layer in the lengthwise direction is 0.80 or more.

5. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the plate-like non-magnetic oxide particles are of at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of cerium oxide, zirconium oxide, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide and iron oxide.

6. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the primer layer and the backcoat layer contains plate-like conductive particles with an average particle size of 10 to 100 nm.

7. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 1, wherein servo signals for use in control of tracking are recorded on the magnetic layer or the backcoat layer.

8. (**Currently Amended**) A magnetic tape comprising a non-magnetic support, a primer layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on a surface of the non-magnetic support, a magnetic layer containing magnetic powder formed on the upper surface of the primer layer, and a backcoat layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on the other surface of the non-magnetic support, characterized in that

the magnetic powder comprises needle-like iron-based magnetic particles,

the thermal expansion coefficient of the magnetic ~~layer~~ tape in the tape widthwise direction is $(0 \text{ to } 8) \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$, and the humidity expansion coefficient of the magnetic ~~layer~~ tape in the tape widthwise direction is $(0 \text{ to } 10) \times 10^{-6}/\% \text{RH}$, and

the amount of edge weave which is formed on either of the edges of the tape serving as the side of reference for the feeding of the tape is $0.8 \mu\text{m}$ or less.

9. (Original) A magnetic tape according to claim 8, wherein the needle-like iron-based magnetic particles have an average major axis length of 20 to 60 nm.

10. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge comprising a box-shaped casing body, and one reel of a magnetic tape as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the magnetic tape cartridge is tracked under the control of servo signals recorded on the magnetic tape.

11. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the servo signals are recorded as magnetic signals on the magnetic layer or the backcoat layer of the magnetic tape.

12. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the servo signals are recorded as optical signals on the backcoat layer of the magnetic tape.

13. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the magnetically recorded signals on the magnetic tape are reproduced by a reproducing head comprising magnetoresistance elements.